

DUPLICATE OF AN IR PREVIOUSLY SENT

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# TELEGRAM

INDICATE  
☐ COLLECT 1523  
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E.O. 11652:

TAGS:

SUBJECT:

ACTION:

TO: RUEKJCS/DIA WASHINGTON DC

INFO: RUHQHQA/CINCPAC HONOLULU HI  
 RUHQHQA/COMIPAC HONOLULU HI  
 RUHHHMA/CDR WESTCOM FT SHAFTER HI  
 RHMBRA/CINCPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI  
 RUMTBK  
 RUKOBT  
 RUEHGP

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THIS IS

THIS IS AN INFO REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTEL

1. (U) COUNTRIES: MALAYSIA (MY) SINGAPORE (SI) THAILAND (TH)  
 INDONESIA (ID)
2. (U) REPORT NUMBER:
3. (U) SUBJECT: GOM MARITIME BOUNDARIES
5. (U) DATE OF INFORMATION: 800127-800225
6. (U) DATE OF REPORT: 800305
7. (U) DATE AND PLACE OF ACQUISITION: 800127-800225 KUALA LUMPUR
8. (U) REFERENCE: INITIATIVE
9. (U) ASSESSMENT: A-1
10. (U) ORIGINATOR:
11. (U) REQUEST EVALUATION: NO
13. (U) APPROVING OFFICER:

104210 (MATH, RT  
 ID, SN, VM  
 502946 MA  
 502990 MA  
 104100 - VM, MA

ENCL 14605

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REQUEST ENCL(S)  
 FROM RTS-2A

DRAFTED BY:

FVC/mpf

DRAFTING DATE  
 5 MAR 80

TEL. EXT.  
 221

CLEARANCES:

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18 AUG REC'D

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14. (U)

15. (U) SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: DIRC: NO A POUCHED VERSION OF THIS IR WITH 5 ENCLS FOLLOWS.

16. (C) SUMMARY: REPORT COVERS MALAYSIA'S RECENT UNILATERAL DECLARATION OF THE LIMITS OF ITS TERRITORIAL SEA. PROBLEMS SURROUNDING OVERLAPPING OR UNILATERALLY DECLARED COUNTER CLAIMS. CONFLICTING JURISDICTIONS INVOLVE, MALAYSIA, THAILAND, PHILIPPINES, INDONESIA, SINGAPORE AND VIETNAM. NEW MAPS DETAILING THE EXTENT OF THE MALAYSIAN CONTINENTAL SHELF ARE INCLUDED AS ENCLOSURES.

22. (S) DETAILS: 1. GOM ON 27 JANUARY 1980, OFFICIALLY PUBLISHED A NEW MAP DEFINING THE LIMITS OF MALAYSIA'S CONTINENTAL SHELF. ALTHOUGH AN ADVERSE REACTION IN SOME QUARTERS (PARTICULARLY SRV) WAS ANTICIPATED, SURPRISINGLY, SUCH HAS NOT OCCURED. THE ISLAND AMBOYA CAY OR PULAU AMBOYA, PRESENTLY OCCUPIED BY AN SRV GARRISON FALLS WITHIN THE CONFINES OF THE NEWLY DEFINED CONTINENTAL SHELF LIMITS. BY MUTUAL CONSENT, BOTH COUNTRIES SEEM INCLINED TO NEGOTIATE THE STATUS OF AMBOYA CAY AND <sup>THE ISLAND</sup> WILL PROBABLY BE A SUBJECT OF DISCUSSION WHEN SRV FOREIGN MINISTER NGUYEN CO-THACH VISITS MALAYSIA DURING THE MARCH 1980 TIME PERIOD.

2. (S) GOM CLAIMS THAT THE NEW MAP ESTABLISHED MALAYSIAN SOVERIGNTY OVER HER CONTINENTAL SHELF AND DOES NOT INVOLVE ANY NEW FUTURE CLAIMS; OFFICIALS ADDITIONALLY CONTEND THAT THE ACTION IS IN CONFORMITY WITH THE CONTINENTAL SHELF ACT.

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THE MINISTER OF LAND AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT, TAN SRI ABUL KADIR YUSOF, STATED THAT GOM HOPES THAT ANY DISPUTES ARISING FROM THE GOM UNILATERAL DECISION WOULD BE RESOLVED THRU PEACEFUL NEGOTIATIONS; INDICATING TO AN EXTENT THAT COUNTER CLAIMS REGARDING THE GULF OF THAILAND, WHERE MALAYSIA, VIETNAM AND THAILAND ALL HAVE LAID CLAIMS THROUGH UNILATERAL DECLARATIONS, <sup>COULD BECOME A BONE OF CONTENTION.</sup> THE EXISTANCE OF LIQUID AND NATURAL GAS DEPOSITS <sup>ADDITIONALLY</sup> WITHIN THE RECENTLY DEFINED CONTINENTAL SHELF AREA <sup>RAISES</sup> ~~THE~~ <sup>CONTROVERSY</sup> ~~CONFLICT~~ POTENTIAL. HOWEVER, MALAYSIA AND THAILAND THRU AN EARLIER AGREEMENT WILL ESTABLISH A JOINT AUTHORITY TO EXPLOIT OIL AND LIQUID NATURAL GAS RESOURCES IN THOSE AREAS WHERE THEIR CONTINENTAL SHELF CLAIMS OVERLAP; THERE IS PRESENTLY NO INFORMATION REGARDING SETTLEMENT OF AN SRV CLAIM PERTINENT TO THE SAME RESOURCES.

3. (C) DISAGREEMENT AMONG CONTESTING PARTIES MAY ALSO ARISE OVER THE TERUMBU LAKSAMANA (COMMODORE REEF AREA) IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA NEAR THE INTERNATIONAL BOUNDRY BETWEEN SABAH AND THE PHILIPPINES. SIMARILARLY, A DIFFERENCE OF ~~ALL~~ OPINION BETWEEN INDONESIA AND MALAYSIA OVER THE ISLANDS OF LIGITAN AND SIDADAN OFF THE KALIMANTAN-SABAH COAST, WHICH DATE BACK TO 1969, MAY AGAIN COME TO THE FOREFRONT. SINGAPORE BECOMES INVOLVED BECAUSE OF THE INCLUSION OF PULAU BATU PUTEH WHICH COMMANDS THE EASTERN APPROACH TO THE SINGAPORE STRAITS. SINGAPORE HAS BEEN OPERATING A LIGHT HOUSE ON THIS ISLAND FOR APPROXIMATELY ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY YEARS.

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ORIGINATORS COMMENTS: (S) MALAYSIA'S UNILATERAL DECLARATION HAS BEEN UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR SOME TIME. CONCEIVABLY GOM IS CONFIDENT THAT IT CAN RESOLVE PROBLEMS INHERENT WITH OVERLAPPING JURISDICTIONS AS THEY RELATE TO ITS ASEAN PARTNERS. NEGOTIATIONS WITH VIETNAM COULD BE MORE DIFFICULT BECAUSE OF THE PHYSICAL OCCUPATION OF AMBOYA CAY BY AN SRV GARRISON. IRONICALLY ACCORDING TO SOURCES ONE AND TWO, THE NEXT LARGE SCALE EXERCISE SCHEDULED FOR JUNE OR JULY 1980 WILL INVOLVE AIR FORCE AND NAVY ELEMENTS SUPPORTING ARMY FORCES ATTEMPTING TO DISLodge A MYTHICAL ENEMY WHO HAS OCCUPIED AN ISLAND WITHIN MALAYSIA'S NEWLY DECLARED CONTINENTAL SHELF LIMITS. ONE CAN EXPECT, HOWEVER, THAT A CHANGE IN SCENARIO WILL OCCUR IF THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF MALAYSIA AND VIETNAM CAN LAY THE GROUNDWORK FOR A ~~MUTUAL~~ <sup>MUTUAL</sup> SOLUTION REGARDING THE AMBOYA CAY CLAIM DURING THE SRV'S FOREIGN MINISTERS VISIT TO MALAYSIA LATER THIS MONTH.

## 5 ENCLOSURES

1. ARTICLE FROM BUSINESS TIMES 8 FEB 80, (U), 1 CY, 1pg.
2. ARTICLE FROM BUSINESS TIMES 25 FEB 80, (U), 1 CY, 2pg.
3. ARTICLE FROM STAR 26 FEB 80, (U), 1 CY, 1pg.
4. MAP PENINSULAR MALAYSIA, NO. SYIT SHEET 1, 1:1,500,00 (U) 1 CY 1pg
5. MAP SABA/SARAWAK MALAYSIA, NO. SYIT SHEET 2, 1:1,500,000

(U) 1 cy 1pg

DG/C/6MAR85

DECL/6MAR86

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